Columbus the mercury indicated 25 and 20 degrees respectively below zero, while at Madrid, in the same latitude, the greatest cold was 16 degrees above zero.

Cuban sugar planters are on the verge of rain. The taxes levied by Spain were as high as could be borne when prices were good. Now, that sugar is unprecidently low, Cuba is feeling all the miseries that arise from dependence upon a single product. Heavy failures are numerous in the Island, and a serious panic is imminent.

Some of the volcanic ash which fell on the deck of the Norwegian bark Borjiid while she lay at anchor off the Great Komouis Islands, has been microscopically examined by Mr. J. Joly, of the Royal Soctety, Dublin. Two species of pyroxine occur—a monoclinic and a rhombic variety. The first was angite; the second presents many of the optical characteristics of hypersthene. Both contain much magnetite. A triclinic feildspar is very abundant, showing many different crystaline shapes.

The list of modern books which are not to be allowed in the public libraries in Russia include translations of works by Agassiz, Bagshot, Huxley, Zola, Lassalle, Lubbock, Lecky, Louis Blanc, Lewes, Lyall, Marx, Mill, Reclus, Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," and "Theory of Meral Sentiments," and Herbert Spencer's works.

PROFANE SWEARING.

"-A citizen of Columbus, O., has made complaint against 200 different men for profane swearing on the street, and had each arrested and fined."

The above paragraph is taken from an exchange, and suggests some thoughts in regard to the prevalence of the foul habit of profane swearing in this community.

It is written in the Penal Code of these islands that "whoever, having arrived at years of discretion, profanely curses or swears, shall be punished by a fine of from one to six dollars." But, as we all know, the punishment is never enforced. Not because people generally are in favor of swearing, but simply because people are unwilling to devote themselves to the task of seeing the law carried out.

Self-sacrificing men and women give their time and talents to the task of suppressing the evils of alcoholic intemperance, and others to the prevention of cruelty to animals and children. Still others go about alleviating the sufferings of the poor, but none of these seem to care to commence a crusade against profane swearing.

Here, in our midst, there is a grand field for those who desire to do good in every way that they can. The task is by no means an enviable one if looked at from the point of view usually taken; but neither is any undertaking that looks to the controlling of men's vices. But the one who undertakes to suppress profane swearing here can only encounter a fraction of the disagreeabilities that philanthropists meet with.

Beginning as they ought, by haunting the higher-toned pleasure resorts in the city, they can enjoy an immunity from contact with the sodden, dirty, and vile-smelling, with whom the temperance advocate must be on intimate terms, in one sense, if he or she hopes to do any good. They can take part in billiards, base-ball, boating, cricket, yachting, etc., with positive advantage to the prosecution of their special work. Indeed, there is nothing to prevent such an one from taking a drink if he feels so disposed; in short, the only self-denial that he would be obliged to practice would be these: he must not use profane language himself, and he must cause others to be punished for doing so.

Of course the one who undertakes to suppress profane swearing here or anywhere else will be met by ridicule, dislike and contumely, but as the paragraph quoted at the head of this article does not mention that the citizen of Columbus, O. was thought any the less of on account of his efforts, it is fair to presume that he suffered no particular martyrdom, and probably did considerable good.

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*While the diagram shows some of the alum powders to be of a higher degree of strength than other powders ranked below them, it is not to be taken as indicating that they have any value. All alum powders, no matter how high their strength, so to be avoided as dangerous.

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